

REMARKS

In the final Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 65-68 and 71 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over CHIAPPA in view of MORRISSEY et al.; rejects claims 69 and 70 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over CHIAPPA in view of MORRISSEY et al., and further in view of SUZUKI; and allows claims 39-49, 51-64 and 72.

Claims 39-49 and 51-72 are currently pending in the present application. By way of this proposed Amendment, claim 65 has been amended to improve form. No new matter has been introduced by way of this proposed Amendment. Accordingly, claims 39-49 and 51-72 will remain pending following entry of the present Amendment.

Initially, the Applicants acknowledge, with appreciation, the allowance of claims 39-49, 51-64 and 72. Reconsideration and allowance of all claims 39-49 and 51-72 in view of the preceding proposed Amendment and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 65-68 and 71 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over CHIAPPA in view of MORRISSEY et al. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

While not concurring with the rejection but to expedite prosecution, Applicants propose amending claim 65 to recite features similar to features recited in claim 39, which was indicated as being allowed. More specifically, claim 65, as proposed, would

now recite a method of processing a packet including receiving portions of a packet in a stream at a first input queue; forming a beginning portion of the packet as the portions are received without waiting for the entire packet to be received, the beginning portion containing first header information; outputting the beginning portion to a first in-line packet processor; while the remaining portions of the packet are being received at the first input queue, detecting the existence of an error in the beginning portion at the first in-line packet processor; and dropping the packet upon existence of an error in the packet. The cited combination of CHIAPPA and MORRISSEY et al. do not disclose or suggest the combination of features in proposed claim 65.

For example, neither CHIAPPA nor MORRISSEY et al. disclose or suggest receiving portions of a packet in a stream at a first input queue and outputting the beginning portion to a first in-line packet processor, as required by claim 65. Accordingly, claim 65, as amended, is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 66-68 and 71 depend from claim 65 and are therefore allowable for at least the reasons that claim 65 is allowable.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 65-68 and 71 are respectfully requested.

Claims 69 and 70 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over CHIAPPA in view of MORRISSEY et al., and further in view of SUZUKI. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claims 69 and 70 depend from claim 65. Applicants respectfully submit that the disclosure of SUZUKI does not remedy the deficiencies in CHIAPPA and MORRISSEY

et al. set forth above with respect to claim 65. For at least this reason, claims 69 and 70 are allowable over the cited combination of CHIAPPA, MORRISSEY et al., and SUZUKI. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 69 and 70 are therefore respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing Amendment since the Amendment merely amends an independent claim to include features similar to those recited in previously presented claims. In addition, in the event that the application is not believed to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the number shown below to expedite prosecution of this application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1070 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

HARRITY SNYDER, L.L.P.

By: /Robin C. Clark/
Robin C. Clark
Registration No. 40,956

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11350 Random Hills Road
Suite 600
Fairfax, Virginia 22030
(571) 432-0800

Customer Number: 44987